

Hillside News

DATES TO REMEMBER



Monday 3rd – Friday 7th February

Children's Mental Health week



WEEKLY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

Little Owls 1	91%
Little Owls 2	93%
Tawny Owls 1	96%
Tawny Owls 2	96%
Tawny Owls 3	99%
Snowy Owls 1	94%
Snowy Owls 2	96%
Snowy Owls 3	97%

Whole School 95%

Target

97% +

The school day begins at 08:40

Gates open at 08:30
School finishes at 15:00

Friday 7th February



Please see recent Parentmail for further details.

Did You Know?

The number 1,000,000 (one million) is made up of 1,000 thousands! If you tried to count to a million out loud, saying one number every second, it would take you almost 12 days without stopping!



Hillside First School

where children are at the heart of everything we do

www.hillsidefirstschool.org ~ 01202 822737 ~ office@hillsidefirstschool.org



Headteacher Update Friday 24th January 2025

We've had another busy week here at Hillside, and it's hard to believe we're already halfway through this half term! Here's a snapshot of what's been happening and some exciting updates to share.

Our **Eco Warriors**, led by Mrs. Davis, have been hard at work. They've been checking in with classrooms across the school and making important plans to ensure we're doing everything we can to be environmentally conscious. Look out for more information about what they have been up to below.

A big shout out to **Hillside Pre-School!** Although they are not officially part of our school, we've enjoyed a close and supportive relationship with them for many years. We can't recommend them highly enough, and we'd love your help spreading the word about this wonderful pre-school to families looking for a nurturing early years setting.

Times tables are a big focus for our Year 4 pupils as we prepare for the statutory multiplication assessment in May. Learning times tables really kicks off in Year 2, and we'll be sharing more details soon about how you can support your child at home. For now, any extra practice on TT Rockstars would be greatly appreciated—it really makes a difference!

We're continuing to build on our classroom work with **knowledge organisers** and **retrieval strategies**, helping children move information from short-term memory into long-term memory. In the coming weeks, I'll be sharing some practical ideas and strategies for you to try at home to support your child's learning.

As part of our Trust-wide **School Readiness Project**, we're committed to supporting families with children starting school in September. We're hosting an event at school for any family in Verwood with a child starting school next year. Further details can be found below.

Did you know that **reading** for just 20 minutes a day exposes children to approximately 1.8 million words per year? This not only builds vocabulary but also helps to increase academic success and can also help build a lifelong love of learning. We're passionate about fostering a love of reading at Hillside and ask for your continued support by hearing or reading with your child as often as possible. Together, we can make a huge impact on their journey!

Thank you for your continued support. Have a fantastic weekend, and we look forward to seeing everyone back next week!

Best wishes, Mr. Graves
Headteacher

Congratulations to the following children
for being our latest **Stars of the Week**:





Hillside's new Eco Warriors have been busy setting up the rota for lunchtime school checks, thinking of new initiatives we can implement in school and promoting recycling in the wider community.

One of these initiatives is linked to Dorset County Councils recycling schemes. We will be having more food recycling bins in classrooms and the school hall and we will continue to promote our paper, plastic and metal recycling in school.

Another idea suggested by the Eco Warriors was to recycle empty, clean crisp packets and snack packaging. We will be having a bin specifically for these items in the hall for children to put their packaging into rather than the normal bin or taking it home. It will then be taken to be recycled.

We have also been in contact with Verwoodians on waste and will be able to give more information about future events soon.

<https://www.vowverwood.com/>

Mrs Davis and The Eco Warriors



Hillside Pre-School & Early Learning Group



WE ARE TAKING BOOKINGS FOR CHILDREN STARTING SCHOOL IN SEPTEMBER 2026

Hillside Pre-School is open term time, Monday - Friday and accepts children with both 15 and 30 hour funding. We have a Breakfast Club running from 7:45am, and After School Club running from 3pm, for both Hillside First and Pre-School children.

To book a tour of our wonderful setting, which opened in April 1990, contact Mrs Ford on:

01202 820 679

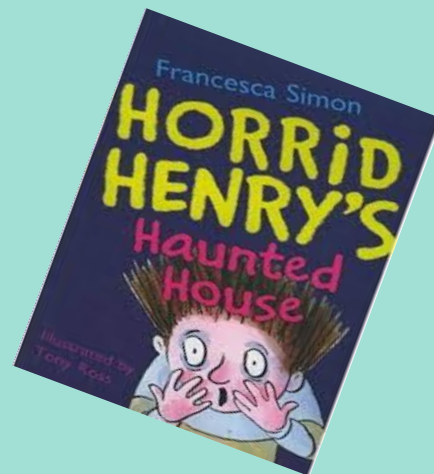
Email: office@hillsidepreschool.org

or visit: www.hillsidepreschool.org

Click on the icons for a quick link to our social media pages, access our website or send us an email →



The Book Nook



Horrid Henry's Haunted House is about Horrid Henry giving toys away. He has a doll as a present, his worst present ever, and he to give it away. Perfect Peter is giving all his toys away. I like it because there's a funny part about Henry being freaked out by a scary movie.
Louisa.

Is your child starting school
in September 2025?

Hillside First School

would like to invite you and your
child to a 'Stay and Play' session.

Tuesday 4th February 2025
09:15-10:15



To register your interest,
contact Hillside First School on:
01202 822737
office@hillsidefirstschool.org

www.hillsidefirstschool.org

*'Where children are
at the heart of
everything we do'*

Hillside Road, Verwood, BH31 7HE



Spring term



UPCOMING EVENTS

January

HAPPY NEW YEAR

Monday 6th
INSET Day



February

Monday 3rd
Year 3 Snowy Owls School Trip
(Winchester Science Museum)

Thursday 6th
Year 4 Snowy Owls School Trip
(Winchester Science Museum)

Monday 10th
Year 1 School Trip
(Museum of East Dorset)

Monday 3rd - Friday 7th
Children's Mental
Health Week

Friday 7th
NSPCC Number Day

Tuesday 11th
Safer Internet Day

Monday 17th - Friday 21st
Half Term

Monday 24th
INSET day

Friday 28th
PTA Event
Mufti Day & School Disco
Reception - Year 1 15:00-16:30
Year 2 - Year 4 17:00-18:30



March

Week Commencing
Monday 3rd
World Book Day
week of celebrations

Tuesday 4th
Parent Consultations
(15:30-19:00)

Wednesday 5th
Parent Consultations
(15:30-17:30)

Thursday 6th
World Book Day
Dress up as a character
from one of your favourite books

Friday 14th
Sponsored Bounce

Friday 21st
Comic Relief

Monday 24th
PTA Event
Someone Special Shop
Purchase a gift for a special
person on Mother's Day



WORLD
BOOK
DAY



RED
NOSE
DAY



April

Monday 7th to
Monday 21st April
Easter
Holidays

Tuesday 22nd
INSET Day

Wednesday 23rd - Friday 25th
Year 4 Residential Trip
(Hooke Court)



Monday 28th
Class and Year 4
leavers photographs





GIRLS CRICKET

FREE TASTER DAY

Two sessions available:
10am - 12pm or 1pm - 3pm

PLEASE REGISTER
TO RESERVE YOUR
SPACE!

WED, 19TH FEB

AT EMMANUEL MIDDLE
SCHOOL, VERWOOD

AGES 6-18



- Come and give cricket a go in a fun and friendly environment!
- All abilities welcome
- Equipment provided
- Training provided by ECB qualified coaches



CONTACT US
girlscricket@verwoodcc.co.uk

VISIT US
WWW.VERWOODCRICKETCLUB.CO.UK



Do you run a sports club, activity fitness group, art or craft club?

Hire our facilities

Our school hall and large outdoor space are available for hire.

Our facilities are available to book on weekday evenings, weekends and holidays.

Contact us:

Hillside First School

Hillside Road, Verwood, Dorset BH31 7HE

For further information contact us at office@hillsidefirstschool.org or 01202 822737

www.hillsidefirstschool.org



After School Clubs

Hillside First School are pleased to offer the following clubs:

Monday

15:00-16:00 – Creative Dance (Year R-2)

16:00-17:00 – Creative Dance (Year 3-4)

Tuesday

08:00-08:30 – Sports & Fitness Breakfast Club (Year R-4)

12:00-12:30 – Sports & Fitness Lunch Club (Year R-4)

15:00-15:50 – After School Football Club (Year 1-4)

Friday

Lessons in school – Rocksteady

15:00-16:00 – Dodgeball /Bench ball (Year 1-4)



DORSET CREATIVE DANCE

HILLSIDE FIRST SCHOOL
AFTER SCHOOL DANCE CLUB

Fun and creative dance classes for children attending Hillside First School
Password for booking: Hillside2025!!

Bookings now open through our website!

Mondays 3pm Reception, Years 1 & 2

Mondays 4pm Years 3 & 4

e: info@dorsetcreatedance.co.uk t: 07759 949 478
www.dorsetcreatedance.co.uk

POOLE FOREST SCHOOL
HILLSIDE

Thursday after school. Cook on the campfire, learn to use tools, build dens, nature crafts. Woodland games and challenges.

Bookings being taken@
www.pooleforestschool.com